

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/612,869

Examiner

Hai Vo

Applicant(s)

GRANATA ET AL.

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of 12/07/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14, 16-27, 29, 30, 32-34, 36 and 38-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1215</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jon H. Beaupre on 12/16/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims:

Rewrite claim 14:

An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

a rigid substrate having a first substrate surface and a second substrate surface having generally opposed to the first substrate surface;

a composite pad supported by the substrate, the pad comprising a non-impregnable layer of an elastomeric material and an impregnable layer adjacent the non-impregnable layer, the impregnable layer including a reticulated foam resin material such that at least a portion of the substrate extends into the impregnable layer and extends adjacent to sides of the impregnable layer, the non-impregnable layer being disposed adjacent the first substrate surface and the non-impregnable layer having a first non-impregnable layer surface facing away from the impregnable layer and the substrate, and a second non-impregnable layer surface generally opposite

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the first non-impregnable layer surface, the first substrate surface and the first non-impregnable layer surface facing in the same general direction; and

a cover skin disposed over and directly bonded to the first substrate surface and the first non-impregnable layer surface of the pad.

Rewrite claim 17:

The panel of claim 16 wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of an elastomeric foam material.

Rewrite claim 19:

The panel of claim 18 wherein the composite pad has a Shore A hardness of about 35-70 when ~~measure~~ measured according to ASTM No. D2240.

Rewrite claim 21:

An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

a rigid substrate;

a preformed composite pad including a non-impregnable layer and an impregnable layer;

a cover skin disposed over and bonded to the substrate and the pad, wherein the cover skin is directly bonded to at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad and a portion of the substrate;

wherein the impregnable layer is made of reticulated resin material having an amount of pores per inch of about 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 pcf;

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wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of elastomeric foam material;

wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present substantially throughout the impregnable layer; and

wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is adjacent to sides of the impregnable layer.

Rewrite claim 22:

An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

a rigid substrate;

a composite pad comprising a non-impregnable layer of an elastomeric material and an impregnable layer including a reticulated foam resin material defining a network within the reticulated material;

a cover skin disposed over and directly bonded to at least a portion of the substrate and at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad;

wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present substantially throughout the network of the impregnable layer.

Rewrite claim 24:

The panel of claim 22 wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of an elastomeric foam material.

Rewrite claim 25:

The panel of claim 22, the reticulated material having an amount of pores per inch of about 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 pcf and the non-impregnable layer including a an elastomeric foam material.

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Rewrite claim 29:

An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

a rigid substrate;

a composite pad comprising a non-impregnable layer of an elastomeric material and an impregnable layer including a reticulated foam resin material defining a network within the reticulated material; and

a cover skin disposed over and directly bonded to at least a portion of the substrate and at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad; wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is adjacent to sides of the impregnable layer and wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present substantially throughout the network of the impregnable layer.

Rewrite claim 32:

The panel of claim 30 wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of a an elastomeric foam material.

Rewrite claim 36:

The panel of claim 14 wherein the non-impregnable layer and the impregnable layer of the ~~preferred~~ composite pad are connected.

Cancel claim 37.

Rewrite claim 38:

The panel of claim 22, wherein the impregnable layer comprises a porous material and the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

Rewrite claim 39:

The panel of claim 29, wherein the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

Rewrite claim 40:

The panel of claim 29, wherein the impregnable layer comprises a porous material the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants' amendment and Examiner's amendment are sufficient to overcome the art rejections and sufficient to place the instant claims in condition for allowance. None of the prior art taken individually or collectively teach or suggest the automotive interior molded panel comprising

a rigid substrate;

a composite pad comprising a non-impregnable layer of an elastomeric material and an impregnable layer including a reticulated foam resin material;

a cover skin disposed over and directly bonded to at least a portion of the substrate and at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad;

wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate extends into the impregnable layer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1485. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 6:00 to 2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HV

Hai Vo
HA VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DEC 07 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Glancarlo Granata et al.
Appln. No.: 09/612,869
Filed: July 10, 2000
For: MOLDED PANELS HAVING A
SOFT PAD ARMREST
Attorney Docket No: 10541-2190

Examiner: Hail Vo

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 7, 2005, Applicants respectfully submit this paper comprising the following parts:

- I. Listing of Claims, beginning on page 2;
- II. Remarks, beginning on page 7.

Applicants note that the Transmittal to which this paper is attached includes a Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 C.F.R. §1.8; and a fee statement calculating any fee(s) presently due in connection with the filing of this paper, along with an authorization to charge any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicant's assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., Deposit Account No. 06-1500.

Ok to enter

HV

12/16/05

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Appln. No. 09/612,859

Attorney Docket No. 10541-2190

I. Listing of Claims

1 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented): An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

a rigid substrate having a first substrate surface and a second substrate surface generally opposed to the first substrate surface;

a composite pad supported by the substrate, the pad comprising a non-impregnable layer and an impregnable layer adjacent the non-impregnable layer, the impregnable layer including a reticulated material such that at least a portion of the substrate extends into the impregnable layer and extends adjacent to sides of the impregnable layer, the non-impregnable layer being disposed adjacent the first substrate surface and the non-impregnable layer having a first non-impregnable layer surface facing away from the impregnable layer and the substrate, and a second non-impregnable layer surface generally opposite the first non-impregnable layer surface, the first substrate surface and the first non-impregnable layer surface facing in the same general direction; and

a cover skin disposed over and bonded to the first substrate surface and the first non-impregnable layer surface of the pad.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim 14, the reticulated material having an amount of pores per inch of about 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 pcf.

17. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim 16 wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of elastomeric foam material.

18. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim 17 wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present throughout the impregnable layer

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~~19~~. (Original): The panel of claim ~~18~~ wherein the composite pad has a Shore A hardness of about 35-70 when measure according to ASTM No. D2240.

6 5
~~20~~. (Original): The panel of claim ~~18~~ wherein the molded panel has a Shore A hardness of about 45-70 when measured according to ASTM No. D2240 while measuring along a line that intersects the composite pad.

11 ~~21~~. (Previously Presented): An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

- a rigid substrate;
- a preformed composite pad including a non-impregnable layer and an impregnable layer;
- a cover skin disposed over and bonded to the substrate and the pad;
- wherein the cover skin is bonded to at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad and a portion of the substrate;
- wherein the impregnable layer is made of reticulated material having an amount of pores per inch of about 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 pcf;
- wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of elastomeric foam material;
- wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present substantially throughout the impregnable layer; and
- wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is adjacent to sides of the impregnable layer.

12 ~~22~~. (Currently Amended): An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

- a rigid substrate;
- a composite pad comprising a non-impregnable layer and an impregnable layer including a reticulated material defining a network within the reticulated material;
- a cover skin disposed over and bonded to at least a portion of the substrate and at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad;

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Appln. No. 09/612,869

Attorney Docket No. 10541-2190

wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present substantially throughout the network of the impregnable layer.

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~~23.~~ (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~22~~, the reticulated material having an amount of pores per inch of about 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 pcf.

14

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~~24.~~ (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~22~~ wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of elastomeric foam material.

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~~25.~~ (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~22~~, the reticulated material having an amount of pores per inch of about 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 and the non-impregnable layer including a elastomeric foam material.

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~~26.~~ (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~25~~ wherein the composite pad has a Shore A hardness of about 35-70 when measured according to ASTM No. D2240.

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~~27.~~ (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~26~~ wherein the molded panel has a Shore A hardness of about 45-70 when measured according to ASTM NO. D2240 while measuring along a line that intersects the composite pad.

28. (Cancelled)

19

~~29.~~ (Currently Amended): An automobile interior molded panel comprising:

a rigid substrate;

a composite pad comprising a non-impregnable layer and an impregnable layer including a reticulated material defining a network within the reticulated material; and

a cover skin disposed over and bonded to at least a portion of the substrate and at least a portion of the non-impregnable layer of the pad;

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Appln. No. 09/612,869

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wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is adjacent to the sides of the impregnable layer and wherein at least a portion of the rigid substrate is present substantially throughout the network of the impregnable layer.

²⁰
~~30~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ¹⁹~~29~~, the reticulated material having an amount of pores per inch of 1 to 100 and a foam density of about 1.5 to 2.5 pcf.

31. (Cancelled):

²¹
~~32~~. (Currently Amended): The panel of claim ²⁰[[31]] ~~30~~ wherein the non-impregnable layer is made of a elastomeric foam material.

²²
~~33~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ²¹~~32~~ wherein the composite pad has a Shore A hardness of about 35-70 when measured according to ASTM No. D2240.

²³
~~34~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ²²~~33~~ wherein the molded panel has a Shore A hardness of about 45-70 when measured according to ASTM No. D2240 while measuring along a line that intersects the composite pad.

35. (Cancelled)

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~~36~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ¹~~14~~ wherein the non-impregnable layer and the impregnable layer of the preformed composite pad are connected.

¹²
37. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ¹²~~22~~ wherein the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

¹⁸
~~38~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ¹²~~22~~ wherein the impregnable layer comprises a porous material and the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

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~~38~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~29~~ wherein the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

25

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~~40~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~29~~ wherein the impregnable layer comprises a porous material and the non-impregnable layer comprises an elastomeric foam-type material.

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~~41~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~14~~ wherein the pad extends along only a portion of the substrate.

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~~42~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~14~~ wherein the cover skin is a polymeric layer.

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~~43~~. (Previously Presented): The panel of claim ~~14~~ wherein the composite pad is preformed.

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